

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16, 17, 19-23, 25-28, 30, 36 and 37 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 15, 18, 24, 29, and 31-35 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 36 and 37 are new. Claims 5, 11, 23, 36 and 37 are independent.

1) Allowable Subject Matter

The Action indicates that dependent claims 5, 11, 15, 23 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. [See Action at p. 9.] To expedite prosecution, Applicant has rewritten claims 5, 11, and 23 in independent form. In addition, Applicant has canceled claims 15 and 29 without prejudice and has rewritten them in independent form as new claims 36 and 37, respectively.

2) Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-17, 19-22, 25-28, and 30 Are also Patentable over the Applied Art

The Action rejects claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14, 16-22 and 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,086,394 to Shapira [hereinafter, "Shapira"] [see Action at pages 2-6], rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shapira in view of United States Patent No. 6,519,463 to Tendler [see Action at pages 7-8], and rejects claims 25 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Shapira [see Action at page 8]. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Nevertheless, in order to expedite issuance of claims drawn to the allowed subject matter, Applicant has canceled the rejected independent claims 1, 8 and 18, and has rewritten dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 25-28 to depend from allowable independent claim 5, dependent claims 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 17, and 30 to depend from allowable independent claim 11, and dependent claims 19-22 to depend from allowable independent claim 23.

Because dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-17, 19-22, 25-28, and 30 now depend from allowable independent claims, the dependent claims should be allowable for at least the reasons given for the allowability of claims 5, 11 and 23. The rejection therefore is now moot.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims in a continuing application.

Request for Interview

If any issues remain, the Examiner is formally requested to contact the undersigned attorney prior to issuance of the next Office Action in order to arrange a telephonic interview. It is believed that a brief discussion of the merits of the present application may expedite prosecution. Applicant submits the foregoing formal Amendment so that the Examiner may fully evaluate Applicant's position, thereby enabling the interview to be more focused.

This request is being submitted under MPEP § 713.01, which indicates that an interview may be arranged in advance by a written request.

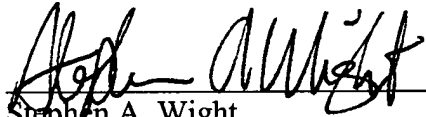
Conclusion

The claims in their present form should now be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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